

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

North Carolina



photo: USFWS

Photos (top to bottom)

Longleaf pine trees are being re-established on 45 acres in Onslow County, contributing to the rare and declining longleaf pine ecosystem



photo: USFWS

A landowner proudly displays his Partners for Fish and Wildlife sign in front of a hardwood seedling planted to form a riparian buffer along Otter Creek in Pitt County. The buffer will benefit migratory birds as well as aquatic life in the adjacent creek.

In partnership with UNC-Charlotte and Cabarrus County Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as several others, Partners for Fish and Wildlife has contributed to the restoration of a 5.5 acre remnant native Piedmont Prairie.



photo: John Suther

The endangered Appalachian elktoe is one of the beneficiaries of a Partners for Fish and Wildlife project to restore the riparian and floodplain buffer, and instream habitat in the Upper Little Tennessee River basin.

Private Lands

90% of the land in North Carolina is privately owned. Without conservation efforts on private lands, our trust resources would simply not survive. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program supports landowners that may lack the technical and financial support necessary to manage their land for wildlife.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's primary mechanism for delivering voluntary on-the-ground habitat improvement projects on private lands for the benefit of Federal trust species. Biologists provide technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to restore and enhance fish and wildlife

habitats on their property. Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects may include improving habitat for species such as migratory birds, anadromous or migratory fish, endangered or threatened species, or any other declining or imperiled species.

Program Goals

- Promote and implement habitat improvement projects that benefit Federal trust species.
- Provide conservation leadership and promote partnerships.
- Encourage public understanding and participation.
- Work with USDA to implement USDA's conservation programs.

Qualifying Landowners

All landowners qualify to participate in Partners for Fish and Wildlife. Participating landowners include private individuals, family trusts, partnerships, corporate owners, non-profit organizations, local governments, and universities.

Habitat Types

Partners for Fish and Wildlife works in a diversity of habitat types throughout the state. Some Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects are educational in nature, providing the necessary materials and opportunities for children and adults to learn the significance of the State's natural resources. Most of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects have occurred in the following four habitat types:

- Forested Wetlands (Bottomland Hardwoods, Non-alluvial swamp forest, Pocosins)
- Longleaf Pine
- Piedmont Prairies
- Streams and Riparian Areas



photo: Anita Goetz

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North Carolina Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Provides:

- Technical assistance such as habitat restoration and enhancement recommendations and planning. The program also provides information on other available programs and partners that may help.
- Financial assistance such as 40-70% of the project cost.

Landowners Provide:

- An agreement for a minimum of 10 years to keep the land in its restored state.
- Coordination and cooperation.
- Cost share or in kind services.
- Reporting and documenting.

Restoration Accomplishments (1988-2005)

Nearly 15,000 acres of upland and bottomland habitat and 30 miles of streams in over 230 projects throughout North Carolina!

Partnership Support

Partners provide technical and financial assistance to projects making them well choreographed and realistic undertakings. Some of our North Carolina partners include:

- USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- The Nature Conservancy
- Various North Carolina Land Trusts
- Ducks Unlimited
- North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Private landowners

Questions and Answers

What are some examples of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects in North Carolina?

For the benefit of multiple wildlife species including migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, Partners for Fish and Wildlife provided partnering landowners in Hyde County technical and financial assistance to restore hydrology and vegetation on prior drained wetlands covering hundreds of acres.

With assistance from Partners for Fish and Wildlife, the NC Coastal Land Trust is primarily using fire to restore their 117 acre BW Wells site in Pender County back to an open wet pine savannah filled with rare plants.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife provided technical and financial assistance to families in Moore, Hoke, and Richmond Counties in important red-cockaded woodpecker habitat to reduce encroaching oaks species in their longleaf pine stand by using herbicides and fire.

Along with Project Bog Turtle, funding from Partners for Fish and Wildlife was used to restore vegetation (by removing woody plants) at a number of mountain bog sites in Avery, Surry, and Wilkes Counties.

What are some examples of Partnerships that promote habitat improvements for Federal Trust Species?

The North Carolina Onslow Bight Conservation Forum has among its goals “to promote the conservation, restoration, health and sustainable use of the landscape and the native terrestrial and aquatic communities that depend, in whole or in part, on the lands and waters of the Onslow Bight area,” an eastern North Carolina area important to many migratory birds and threatened and endangered plants and animals.

The North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership was formed in 2000 with the specific intent to facilitate collaboration between various federal, state, and non-profit conservation groups for the purpose of conserving the vanishing longleaf pine ecosystem and recovering the federally-listed endangered red-cockaded woodpecker in the North Carolina Sandhills.

The Mitchell River Coalition, comprised of more than 20 agencies and organizations as well as watershed landowners and volunteers, is working diligently to safe-guard the water quality of the Mitchell River in Surry and Alleghany Counties. To accomplish this goal, the Coalition works with landowners using a variety of strategies, such as land protection,

stream restoration, and Best Management Practices for agricultural and forestry activities, to change the river’s course to one of long-term stability and maintenance of the highest water quality possible for generations to come.

What is NC Partners?

NC Partners is a Partnership among the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designed to assist private landowners restore, enhance or create managed wetland habitat on their property for the benefit of waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife.

What is the Forest Landbird Legacy Program?

The Forest Landbird Legacy Program (FLLP), led by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is a voluntary wildlife conservation program for private non-industrial forest landowners in all parts of North Carolina who want to manage their mature forests to benefit forest dwelling landbirds.

How do I apply to Partners for Fish and Wildlife, NC Partners, or FLLP?

Notify the Partners for Fish and Wildlife contact closest to where you live to discuss your land and objectives. A biologist will likely visit your property, discuss program objectives with you, and provide technical assistance should you want to restore, enhance, or create fish and wildlife habitat on your land. If you would like to receive funding assistance, the biologist will assist you in preparing an application. Funds are limited and your project must compete with other projects submitted to the program.

Additional Partners for Fish and Wildlife Contacts:

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